



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Town of Arlington

27 Maple Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

Christine M. Connolly
Director of Public Health

Tel: 781 316-3170
Fax: 781 316-3175

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2004

9:00a.m.

Board of Health Conference Room

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Carole Allen (Chair), Mr. Gregory Leonardos

Staff in Attendance: Christine Connolly, (Director of Public Health), Denise Boucher (Health Compliance Officer), Diane Coste (Public Health Nurse)

- I. Meeting Minutes from the November 10, 2003 meeting were accepted as written.
- II. **Discussion: Town of Arlington, Board of Health Rules and Regulations Restricting Smoking and Distribution of Tobacco and Tobacco Products Within the Town of Arlington.** Maryellen Loud, Library Director presented a request from the Robbins Library Trustees to have the library entranceway smokefree. Ms. Loud stated that there are children that attend programs in the Robbins Library each day and that the Library Trustees feel that smoke at the front steps may pose a health concern for those children. Ms. Loud asked that the Board enact a regulation to make this area smoke-free and also stated that she had been advised that she would need to put together a warrant article for Town Meeting. Dr. Allen stated that the Board of Health Regulations could be amended and that going through Town Meeting may not be necessary to make the entranceway smoke free. Dr. Allen asked Ms. Connolly to look into whether John Maher (Town Counsel) would prefer the request go through Town Meeting to add to the smoking ban by-law from the early 1990's that was enacted prior to the Board of Health Smoke-Free Regulation. If it is necessary to change only the Board of Health regulations, then the Board agreed that they would review amended regulations at the next meeting and would hold a public hearing at the meeting following the next.
- III. Christine Connolly reported to the Board that the annual permitting of Food Establishments, Tobacco retailers, Massage therapists, Massage

Establishments, Waste Haulers and Tanning Establishments was still underway. Ms. Connolly stated that all of these permits are renewed each January 1st but still there are outstanding permit renewals and staff from the office will follow up with each un-permitted facility and practitioner over the next week.

- IV. Christine Connolly introduced Diane Coste, the Public Health Nurse to the Board. Ms. Coste explained her role in the department as the Public Health Nurse. Diane explained that she works 12 hours per week and that her duties include communicable disease follow-up and vaccine distribution to Doctors offices in town. Dr. Allen asked Ms. Coste if she has noticed an increase of a particular reported disease, and Ms. Coste stated that she is unsure if a rise in the reported disease is indicative of an actual peak in the disease from years past, or if it is a more knowledgeable physician base requesting new and different tests. Overall Ms. Coste stated that there are more reported cases of Lyme Disease and Hepatitis.
- V. Denise Boucher briefed the Board on the Inspections Week, which was held during the week of January 5-9, 2004. Boucher explained that during the week, Christine Connolly and Joe Carabello joined her in the field to perform restaurant inspections. Each year, restaurant inspections are required up to 4 times at each establishment and with roughly 160 food permits issued, this requirement is difficult to fulfill. In order to get a start on the year, Boucher explained that she, Christine and Joe spent the entire week performing food inspections. Patsy Kraemer, Director of Human Services was invited to participate and accompanied Denise Boucher on a food inspection. In total, 34 restaurants were inspected during the week.
- VI. Denise Boucher reported that the new re-inspection process has been implemented, this is a \$100 re-inspection fee for restaurants that fail to correct violations after the first re-inspection of a restaurant. Boucher stated that often times she will inspect a restaurant and document violations and when she goes back for a re-inspection, the same violations are documented, which then requires a further inspection to ensure that compliance is reached. The re-inspection fee is charged for restaurants that fail to correct the violations on the first re-inspection.
- VII. Christine Connolly reported the final information on the 2003 flu clinics. In total, 907 Arlington residents were vaccinated using the total allotment given to the department by the state. Ms. Connolly stated that the figure was down from years past because of cuts in vaccine allotment from the state. The Board asked that the data be compared with data from last year.

Adjourn

